

# Montana Incentives and Interventions Grid (MIIG) FAQs

## MIIG RESEARCH

### 1. Is the MIIG based on best practices in the criminal justice field? MCA 46-23-1028 (SB 59)

*Yes. The MIIG incorporates several best practices such as:*

- *Use of incentives to promote and sustain positive behaviors*
- *A range of incentives and intervention options to tailor responses to the individual and behaviors exhibited*
- *Ability to graduate incentives and interventions within each level of response*
- *Expanded community-based options to promote behavior change within the least restrictive option while maintaining public safety*
- *Swift sanctions with increased officer discretion*
- *Linkage to criminogenic needs and case planning*

### 2. Is the MIIG validated?

*No. Since the MIIG is not an assessment tool validation is not needed or recommended, however, data measures will be put in place to track utilization and functionality of the MIIG.*

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

### 3. What is the MORRA and WRNA?

*MORRA – Montana Offender Reentry and Risk Assessment – is a validated risk and need assessment. It was developed by the University of Cincinnati and is used for men in Montana's criminal justice system. The MORRA identifies an individual's risk to reoffend as well as need areas to target for behavior change.*

*WRNA – Woman's Risk Need Assessment – is a validated risk and need assessment which assesses both gender-neutral and gender-responsive factors for women in Montana's criminal justice system. It was developed by the University of Cincinnati. The WRNA identifies an individual's risk to reoffend as well as need areas to target for behavior change.*

### 4. Does the MIIG apply to drug court clients?

*No. Drug courts will maintain their current behavior management system. The MIIG will only apply when an individual is terminated from drug court.*

### 5. Will the supervision officers use every intervention listed prior to requesting a violation hearing?

*No. Officers should utilize "appropriate interventions" based on the individual, attempting to use the least restrictive interventions prior to custodial responses, while maintaining public safety. Some interventions may be ineffective for an individual and therefore not utilized. For example, if an individual does not like to leave his/her house than an intervention such as travel restriction or house arrest will be ineffective and thus not utilized. Additionally, an individual's behavior may be severe enough that lower level intervention options are inappropriate.*

### 6. Can I provide feedback on the MIIG?

*Yes. A survey will be distributed in March 2018 to solicit additional feedback. Immediate questions and feedback can be sent to:*

*Region 1 – Brian Callarman, Deputy Chief at [BCallarman@mt.gov](mailto:BCallarman@mt.gov)*

*Region 2 – Katie Donath, Deputy Chief at [KDonath@mt.gov](mailto:KDonath@mt.gov)*

## INCENTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS – MIIG MECHANICS

### 7. Is the Low/Moderate, Medium, High for the incentive and intervention level based on the overall MORRA/WRNA score?



*Yes. The levels correspond with overall MORRA/WRNA scores. For example, if a person on supervision is "high risk" on the MORRA then for any incentive or violation behaviors the "high" column on the MIIG will determine the level of incentive or intervention to use.*

**8. Does the "risk" score stay the same during the course of supervision?**

*No. The risk score could change throughout the course of supervision. Supervision officers will reassess individuals using the MORRA or WRNA every 12 months or if the individual has a "life-altering event" that would warrant reassessment sooner.*

**9. How does the supervision officer decide which incentive or intervention to choose within the recommended level?**

*Incentives – An incentive should be chosen based on what would be meaningful to the individual. Incentives don't have to be graduated in nature.*

*Interventions – Interventions should be graduated in nature and officers should attempt to use the least restrictive (MCA 46-23-1028; SB 59 & HB 2) and punitive (top of the level) option, while maintaining public and victim safety, and work their way to more restrictive and punitive interventions (bottom of the level) as violations continue. Interventions should also take into account individual circumstances to ensure the intervention will have an impact. For example, utilizing house arrest for an individual who rarely leaves their house and refuses to job search will likely not be effective.*

**10. Can a supervision officer use incentives and interventions from a different level?**

*Yes. If aggravating or mitigating circumstances are applicable which would make a lower or higher-level response appropriate.*

*Mitigating Circumstances – If mitigating circumstances apply the reason for a mitigated response should be documented by the supervision officer. Mitigating circumstances do not require supervisory approval unless the behavior requires a Report of Violation.*

*Aggravating Circumstances – Supervisor approval is required for the use of aggravating circumstances. The reason for an aggravated response should be documented by the supervision officer. Aggravated responses should be used judiciously and the presence of an aggravating circumstance does not automatically necessitate the need for an aggravated response.*

**SEX OFFENDER SPECIFIC INCENTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS**

**11. Why is there a separate MIIG page for sex offenders?**

*We recognize there are additional conditions which apply only to sex offenders on supervision. Instead of adding these into the general MIIG we felt it would be easier to have an adjunct grid for sex offender specific conditions.*

**12. Do sex offenders only have to adhere to conditions on the sex offender portion of the MIIG?**

*No. The sex offender portion is only relevant to sex offender specific conditions of supervision. If a sex offender violates a general condition of supervision (employment, laws violation, etc.) then the use of the general MIIG would be appropriate.*

**13. What are the sex offender levels based on?**

*For sex offenders, the level will be based on a combination of the MORRA/WRNA, Static-99R, and STABLE and ACUTE assessment scores. The Static-99R and STABLE and ACUTE are static and dynamic sex offender risk assessments designed to predict sex offense reoffending. Supervision officers will utilize the highest risk level identified for use in supervision and MIIG application.*

**14. Can sex offenders only receive incentives and interventions with an asterisk by them denoting for sex offenders?**

*No. For sex offenders, a supervision officer can use any of the incentives and interventions listed including any of the sex offender specific ones for any behaviors.*